

*Greenville, NY* – U.S. Rep. John Hall (NY-19) announced today that \$596,549 in federal funds has been secured for five local fire departments, including Greenville Fire Department; the Slate Hill and New Hampton Fire Departments in Wawayanda; and the Johnson and the Unionville Fire Departments in Minisink.

The money will be used to purchase new radios as well as an electronic tracking system that will help monitor the safety of firefighters, police officers, and Emergency Medical Services personnel. Receipt of the federal grant prevents the cost of the new equipment from being passed on to local taxpayers.

William Butler, Chief of the Greenville Fire District said, "This grant allows us to take the next step in 21st Century technology. With these new radios and the Common Accountability and Credentialing System we will know if someone is trapped, and where that person is located. This helps us protect our own safety as well as the safety of the people we respond to, without adding to the burden on our taxpayers."

The equipment will be used by more than 250 first responders, and will enable them to do a better job of coordinating with their counterparts throughout New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Congressman John Hall has arranged grant writing workshops to help local fire departments learn how to apply for this kind of grant, which lead directly to the fire districts' successful grant application to the federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"As a result of attending Congressman Hall's workshops, we've been successful in four out of the five federal grants we've applied for – and in the case of the fifth grant, we were successful the second time we applied," Chief William Butler said.

Congressman Hall said, "I'm pleased that federal funding could make this equipment upgrade possible. Emergency service personnel put their lives on the line every day to protect us. We owe it to them to do all we can to make their work safer."

Hall said, "This kind of federal funding allows our municipal governments to focus on controlling costs and reducing the local tax burden."